

GROUP 6 NOTES

Moderator (Planning): Eric Hammer

Note Taker (Design Center): Gretchen Trast

Introductions of each participant; how was where you live or work affected by the explosion? (10 mins.)

Gary Everton: architect and done work on 2nd ave since the late 70s. Our office was on 2nd ave too when we started Evanston Ogelsby architects; done several projects up and down 2nd ave and over the years we've had quite a bit of exploratory bright ideas some built and some not and so much potential. I've had historic nashville commission, etc. and I'm expecting us to put everything we can in this part of the city to make it even better than before

Lucy Kempf: metro planning

Ronald Lustig: not a resident or business owner but worked on Alice Zimmerman's showroom before Gary moved in. We had a lot of experience in the years working on 2nd ave. working on the wild horse, and gary historic commission. 2nd ave is a real jewel and not only 2nd but first ave and it is important that we bring it back to life so it improves for the next 50 years.

Ron Gobbell: I'm the guy that makes ed do the work and I take the credit. Actually I just do what he tells me to do. We are working with planning and lucy as the project managers said earlier but I live on the corner of 3rd and church. Right now we lost 5 wine glasses which only leaves us at 30 wine glasses. I used to live in the quarters, we designed the quarters. Lived in the units facing second. Had its last major streetscape work in the early 90s and it worked. We had a really good 20 year run but it has been struggling. I followed Gary and all these seats, historic nashville board, chair of the district, and you know, the district focuses on 2nd ave and has been struggling with that street for a while. Great opportunity to come p with a new vision and refresh everything and continue the momentum to keep things going

Tim Walker: listening, no introduction

Edward Henley: principal at pillars development. I am a nashville native and 2nd ave is near and dear to me. I've done a lot of large projects in the downtown area so have spent a lot of time down there. incoming/upcoming chairperson for ULI. board member of the civic design center and someone who is extremely engaged in what 2nd ave. refers to working with Ron Gobbell

Eben Cathey: work with the planning department and have been involved coordinating the response and getting info out to stakeholders and have been doing that for 3 or 4 weeks following the explosion and here to listen today.

Will Carter: owner of 108 in the quarters and bought it 6 years ago. Moved back into the city. Turned it into a short term rental and got to know the residents and businesses around there. Have a lot of family friends have used our places over the years. How devastating it is to Nashville and we didn't live down there specifically, but from a business side (short term rentals) and it will not be an income source for us for how long it will take to rebuild. Own several properties around the country and short term rentals

What did you love about 2nd Ave. area before the pandemic and the explosion? (15 mins.)

Gary

- Sidewalks always filled with people
- Rotary club meets there
- People activating streetscape
- The only existing pre civil war block long. We gave up early in the civil war which is why it lasted
- History of rolling up goods from the gang plank and selling them from the 2nd street side

Edward

- Love the activity of the space, loved walking down there for options for food and being entertained throughout entire meal, Butler run nook, great and diverse space
- Always having history there.
- Really like the sharp transition into quarter and the feel of it, while there was a large amount of activity it did seem crowded. But something about that scale--trying to avoid the walmart model though

Ron L.

- Collection of historic buildings and last jewel of historic buildings
- Making it accessible and use of pedestrian to revitalize it to make it a place where people want to go and walk and see the history of nashville

Will

- Short term rental guests said they loved the uniqueness, quaintness, historic part of it
- Pavers were rough, esp. With scooters hitting them
- Load in spot--working that out

Ron G.

- 2nd ave as center for birthing and rebirthing nashville
- A lot of good restaurants that were restaurant and adult oriented

Lucy

- Something compelling about those facades on first and the windows and huge windows and the entryways at the base. I'm sure there is plenty to suggest from an efficiency perspective, to reimagine those perspectives, but the way they are is lovely.

Tim

- 2nd ave has different quality than broadway
- How to get people to stroll down first ave.
- We aren't taking advantage of the riverfront and open way to draw people to first ave block

What challenges were you facing before COVID and/or explosion? With respect to 2nd Ave.? (15 mins.)

Gary

- Getting trash out of the buildings has always been an issue and keeping the brick pavers in good condition and not slippery is issues.
- Panhandling from homeless people
- Trees were nice before they got too large. Horse hitch posts around the trees was a little tacky

Lucy

- Have something that gets more activation. The environment today doesn't necessarily support that.

Edward

- It has been tough to get trash out and someone who has grown up in nashville, been part of the larger projects.
- Think about that area as being pedestrian dominant. Maneuvering downtown with a truck is pointless and i think about the parking situation anyways and a lot of time it is best if it was dedicated to deliveries and then a short of short term parking. People will be uber-ing instead getting dropped off. There is a garage there and is there an opportunity to make a pedestrian dominated street? More events?

Will

- Complaints from staff "cleanliness, homeless people"
- Old windows made it too loud with all the people. Rebuilding will focus on really good windows to keep the sound in control

What other concerns do you have? (15 mins.)

Will

- Wasn't quite as dense , was comfortable but it is cramped and more activity. It is well activated but it is becoming compressed with tourism happening more and more
- I don't know how encroaching into the road would work
- Is there a thought to have that style of the french quarter? Cafes above and up top to preserve street

What opportunities and aspirations would you like us to consider? If you could make one change to the built environment on 2nd what would it be? (15 mins.)

Gary

- Sidewalks were ok because it was activated. If we have sidewalk cafes, then the sidewalks are probably not large enough. But if you go back through the years, it was diagonal parking and then for a while it was two ways and then it went back to 1 way with

restricted on-street parking. There are a variety of options for parking. Widening the sidewalk and cares. It doesn't seem logical on west side bc there is att and garage. South of commerce street, that is a different subject. I think sidewalk cafes would be wonderful.

- More connections to east west from 2nd to 1st that are publicly accessible so we don't have an entire block where you couldn't make the transition to permeate the barrier
- Adding to pedestrian character of the east side of 2nd ave by possibly taking a way onstreet parking for bulbouts for sidewalk cafes in certain areas
- Att is the ugly stepchild of the entire district and if we can do something to transition that functional aspect of our city to another location and would go a long way to transition towards printers alley to knit together our fabric.

Edward

- More events, street festival
- Programmatically design the street so that it can be a pedestrian dominant street a day or two or a couple times a year.
- Could give a new dynamic to the space to leverage what happens on Broadway anyway.
- Looking at att and opportunity for minor building, or contextually appropriate skin that goes through there. Creating a sense of place, and abrupt and harsh change. If you have a lantern fit, it doesn't seem like that bad of a walk. At the top of the hill adding a beacon and allow a lot of architects that are engaged and imaginative could fill the ground

Ron L.

- It's the missing teeth that we have along 2nd ave. if we can do something to incentivize the property owners, incentivize att and there is wonderful texture and we begin losing it from commerce, up on the west side and what ever we can do to enhance it--or incentivize them to move. There is an opportunity there we should look at and it is a great study on how we deal with adding the cafes or adding sidewalk dining. Does that help remove panhandlers? What happens on the western side of 2nd ave and how we fill those three big gaps along there.

Will

- Att doesn't fit in, you have to get out of the building to enjoy the space.
- A lot can be thought of and done there. Make all that consistent and coordinated together.

Tim

- Att building and parking lot between bank and church, but i agree with others said
- Is there another way to activate the riverfront? Other cities in TN have done such a better job than us.